

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 02131 071313Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8128
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 2131

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: BANNING OF DR. NTHATO MOTLANA FROM SEPTEMBER 6-30

1. YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 6, DR. NTHATO MOTLANA RECEIVED A 25 DAY BANNING ORDER UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE HE WAS TO ADDRESS THE FIRST OF FOUR SYMPOSIA ON " SOUTH AFRICA'S CRISIS IN EDUCATION". THE ORDER SPECIFICALLY PREVENTS DR. MOTLANA FROM SPEAKING IN ANY PUBLIC GATHERING AT WITWATERSRAND UNIVERSITY. THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR OF WITS READ THE ORDER BEFORE THE AUDIENCE, EXPRESSING HIS OWN REGRET. A MOTION CONDEMNING THE ORDER WAS PASSED BY THE AUDIENCE. PROFESSOR C.J.R. DUGARD, PROFESSOR OF LAW AT WITS, READ MOTLANA'S SPEECH WHICH CONDEMNED THE BANTU EDUCATION ACT AS A " RECIPE FOR DISASTER". FURTHER, HE SAID WE ARE ALL SOUTH AFRICANS AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SO BEFORE THE LAW. HE ADDED THAT THE GOODWILL EXISTING BETWEEN THE RACES WILL EVENTUALLY BE TRAMPLED UNLESS BLACKS ARE GIVEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

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PAGE 02 JOHANN 02131 071313Z

2. PROFESSOR DUGARD SUGGESTED BISHOP DESMOND TUTU MAY ALSO BE TEMPORARILY BANNED FOR THE DURATION OF THE SYMPOSIA. HE ADDED THAT SECTION 9 BANNINGS HAD LAST BEEN USED IN THE LATE 1950'S.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS ACTION WAS SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT DR. MOTLANA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE

SYMPOSIA. THE FACT THAT THE TERMS OF THE BANNING
ORDER WERE SO LENIENT MAY REFLECT THE GOVERNMENT'S
GROWING SENSITIVITY TO ITS HANDLING OF PROMINENT
INDIVIDUALS.
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